

# *Proclamation*

August 16, 2006 marks the 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first official Army parachute jump by the United States Army Parachute Test Platoon at Fort Benning, Georgia. This successful jump, performed on August 16, 1940, led to a new method of warfare where United States ground combat forces could be “dropped” into battle and placed behind enemy lines with very little warning.

This concept created an impressive force of more than 100,000 paratroopers who were assigned to units within the U.S. military, including the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment and the 82<sup>nd</sup> and 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Divisions. Since their widespread use began during World War II, airborne forces have proven to be extremely effective.

The achievements of the airborne forces during World War II provided the foundation for the evolution into a diversified force of parachute and air assault units. Over the years, these forces have fought in Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf Region and Somalia. They have also engaged in peacekeeping operations in Lebanon, Sinai Peninsula, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Bosnia, and Kosovo.

Today’s airborne force of the United States Special Operations Command is mostly comprised of the Army Special Forces, Marine Corps Force Reconnaissance units, Navy SEALs and Air Force combat control teams.

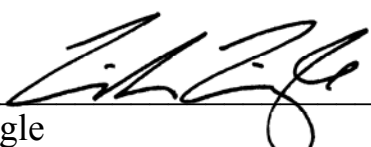
Over these past 66 years, these courageous individuals have earned great respect for their dedication and commitment in the defense of freedom and liberty.

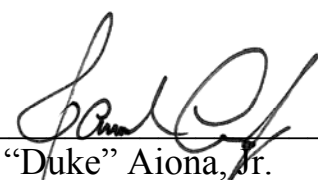
**THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE**, Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, and **I, JAMES R. “DUKE” AIONA, JR.**, Lieutenant Governor, do hereby proclaim August 16, 2006, as

# STATE AIRBORNE DAY

in Hawai‘i, and honor these heroes, past and present, who have served our country with remarkable bravery, devotion and allegiance.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai‘i, this first day of August 2006.

  
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Linda Lingle  
Governor, State of Hawai‘i

  
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James R. “Duke” Aiona, Jr.  
Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai‘i